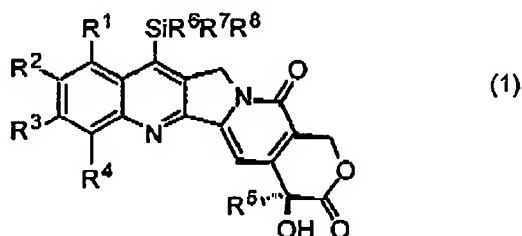


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims, in which claims 1-13 are canceled without prejudice claim 14 is amended, and claims 15-40 are newly added, will replace all prior versions and listings in the application:

1.-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a cancer patient or a leukemia patient, comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of ~~Claim 1~~ having the following formula or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently the same or different and are hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aminoalkyl group, an alkylaminoalkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an alkoxyl group, an aryloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a halogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an azido group, a formyl group, a hydrazino group, $-C(O)R^f$, wherein R^f is an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, an alkoxyl group, an amino group or a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group, $-SR^c$, wherein R^c is hydrogen, $-C(O)R^f$, an alkyl group, or an aryl group, $-OC(O)R^d$ or $-OC(O)OR^d$, wherein R^d is an alkyl group; or R^1 and R^2 together form a group of the formula $-O(CH_2)_nO-$ wherein n represents the integer 1 or 2:

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R³ is H, F, a halogen atom, a nitro group, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, or a cyano group; or R² and R³ together form a group of the formula -O(CH₂)_nO- wherein n represents the integer 1 or 2;

R⁴ is H, F, a C₁₋₃ alkyl group, a C₂₋₃ alkenyl group, a C₂₋₃ alkynyl group, or a C₁₋₃ alkoxyl group;

R⁵ is a C₁₋₁₀ alkyl group, or a propargyl group; and

R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are independently a C₁₋₁₀ alkyl group, a C₂₋₁₀ alkenyl group, a C₂₋₁₀ alkynyl group, an aryl group or a -(CH₂)_NR⁹ group, wherein N is an integer within the range of 1 through 10 and R⁹ is a hydroxyl group, alkoxy group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group, a halogen atom, a cyano group or a nitro group;

wherein at least one of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ is not H, a halogen, an alkyl group, an amino group or a nitro group.

15. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R⁴ is H.

16. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R¹ and R² are independently the same or different and are H, a hydroxy group, a halogen, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C₁₋₃ alkyl group, a C₂₋₃ alkenyl group, a C₂₋₃ alkynyl group or a C₁₋₃ alkoxyl group.

17. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R¹ and R² are independently the same or different and are a C₁₋₃ perhaloalkyl group, a C₁₋₃ aminoalkyl group, a C₁₋₃ alkylamino group or a C₁₋₃ dialkylamino group.

18. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R¹ and R² are independently the same or different and are H, a methyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, or a hydroxyl group.

19. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently the same or different and are a methylamino group, a dimethylamino group, an ethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a hydroxymethyl group, an aminomethyl group, a methylaminomethyl group, or a dimethylaminomethyl group.

20. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^3 is F, an amino group, or a hydroxyl group.

21. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^5 is an ethyl group.

22. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently the same or different and are a C1-6 alkyl group, a phenyl group or a $-(CH_2)_N R^9$ group, wherein N is an integer within the range of 1 through 6 and R^9 is a hydroxyl group, alkoxy group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, a dialkylamino group, a halogen atom, a cyano group or a nitro group.

23. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are methyl groups.

24. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^2 and R^3 form a methylenedioxy group, or a 1,2-ethylenedioxy group.

25. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^3 is F.

26. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein the compound is 7-trimethylsilyl camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-10-acetoxy camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-10-hydroxy camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-11-fluoro camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-9-fluoro camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-10-fluoro camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-10-amino camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-11-amino camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-11, 12-difluoro camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-9, 10-difluoro camptothecin, 7-trimethylsilyl-10-amino-11-fluoro camptothecin, 7-tert-butyltrimethylsilyl camptothecin,

7-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-10-acetoxy camptothecin, 7-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-10-hydroxy camptothecin, 7-dimethyl-3-cyanopropylsilyl camptothecin, 7-dimethyl-3-halopropylsilyl camptothecin, 7-triphenylsilyl camptothecin, 7-triethylsilyl camptothecin, 7-dimethylnorpinylsilyl camptothecin.

27. (New) The method of Claim 14, wherein R^2 is a hydroxy group.

28. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^4 is H.

29. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^1 is H, a hydroxyl group, a halogen, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group, a C_{2-3} alkenyl group, a C_{2-3} alkynyl group or a C_{1-3} alkoxyl group.

30. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^1 is a C_{1-3} perhaloalkyl group, a C_{1-3} aminoalkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkylamino group or a C_{1-3} dialkylamino group.

31. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^1 is H, a methyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, or a hydroxyl group.

32. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^1 is a methylamino group, a dimethylamino group, an ethylamino group, a diethylamino group, a hydroxymethyl group, an aminomethyl group, a methylaminomethyl group, or a dimethylaminomethyl group.

33. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^3 is F, an amino group, or a hydroxyl group.

34. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^5 is an ethyl group.

35. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are independently the same or different and are a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a phenyl group or a $-(CH_2)_N R^9$ group, wherein N is an integer within the range of 1 through 6 and R^9 is a

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hydroxyl group, alkoxy group an amino group, an alkylamino group a dialkylamino group, a halogen atom, a cyano group or a nitro group.

36. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^6 , R^7 and R^8 are methyl groups.

37. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^2 and R^3 form a methylenedioxy group, or a 1,2-ethylenedioxy group.

38. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein R^3 is F.

39. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein the compound is 7-trimethylsilyl-10-hydroxy camptothecin or 7-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-10-hydroxy camptothecin.

40. (New) The compound of Claim 27, wherein the compound is 7-tert-butyldimethylsilyl-10-hydroxy camptothecin.